CLAIMS

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The coupler assembly of claim 30, wherein said optical fiber has a fiber end having an angled surface adapted to couple light in and out of said optical fiber while changing the light propagation direction.

9. (Original) The coupler assembly of claim 8, wherein the angled surface is oriented at about 45 degrees with respect to a fiber axis.

10. (Previously presented) The coupler assembly of claim 30, wherein:

the optical transceiver is adapted to process two or more optical signals;

the optical pipe has two or more waveguides adapted to transmit the two or more optical signals; and

the movable optical element comprises two or more flexible optical fibers, each fiber adapted to guide an optical signal between the optical transceiver and a corresponding waveguide.

11-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein said optical fiber has a fiber end having an angled surface adapted to couple light in and out of said optical fiber while changing the light propagation direction.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the angled surface is oriented at about 45 degrees with respect to a fiber axis.

24. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein:

the optical transceiver is adapted to process two or more optical signals;

the optical pipe has two or more waveguides adapted to transmit the two or more optical signals; and

the movable optical element comprises two or more flexible optical fibers, each fiber adapted to guide an optical signal between the optical transceiver and a corresponding waveguide.

25-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously presented) A coupler assembly adapted to provide optical coupling between an optical transceiver of a circuit pack connected to a backplane and an optical pipe of said backplane, the coupler assembly comprising a movable optical element, wherein:

the optical pipe is adapted to transmit optical signals through the backplane;

the movable optical element has a flexible optical fiber adapted to guide light between the optical transceiver and the optical pipe and is adapted to move so as to accommodate misalignment between the backplane and the circuit pack to provide said optical coupling; and

the coupler assembly has first and second heads connected by a flexure and adapted to move with respect to each other, wherein, when the first head moves with respect to the second head, the flexible optical fiber is bent.

31. (Previously presented) A system, comprising:

a backplane having an optical pipe adapted to transmit optical signals through the backplane; and

a coupler assembly adapted to optically couple (i) an optical transceiver of a circuit pack coupled to the backplane and (ii) the optical pipe, wherein the coupler assembly has a movable optical element adapted to accommodate misalignment between the backplane and the circuit pack to provide said optical coupling, wherein:

the movable optical element has a flexible optical fiber adapted to guide light between the optical transceiver and the optical pipe; and

the coupler assembly has first and second heads connected by a flexure and adapted to move with respect to each other, wherein, when the first head moves with respect to the second head, the flexible optical fiber is bent.